

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

BUDGET MEETING

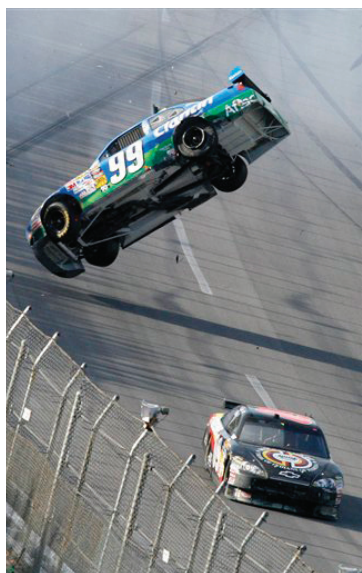


Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., holds up a gavel before the start of a Senate and House budget resolution conference committee meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, April 27, 2009.

See **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

TALLADEGA FLIGHT



Carl Edwards (99) goes airborne after colliding with Brad Keselowski, bottom, on the final lap of the Aaron's 499 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., on Sunday, April 26, 2009.

See Sports Today



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:
US\$ 50.14

Animal Rights Aruba Big Winner Of Bugaloe Open Golf

TIERRA DEL SOL - The Bugaloe Open Golf Tournament which was held last Saturday, was not only for the organization and the participants a huge success, Animal Rights Aruba was clearly the thrilled winner. Roy Mezas, representative of this non-profit animal welfare organization, gratefully accepted a stunning sponsor amount of Afl. 5260,50.

"This is wonderful and the amount really surprised me. It's great that the sponsors and players were so generous," Mezas says. "We will mainly use this money for education. Educating the young and adult is the key to structural improvement of animal welfare in Aruba. We are extremely happy with this initiative by Bugaloe Beach Bar and we are very grateful to all sponsors,"



Picture of presentation of sponsor amount for ARA. People in the picture from the left: Alfons Linders (organization), Roy Mesas (ARA), Oliver Riding en Adam Williamson (Tierra del Sol).

the A.R.A. representative says with a big smile.

The event started around 12:30pm and right from the

beginning all 114 participants enjoyed the relaxed and fun atmosphere. The Heineken catering cart on the course was welcomed with a cheer

as all players were surprised with Heineken refreshment and Bugaloe snacks.

Continued on page 11

New England Patriots Cheerleaders enjoy Aruba's beaches



DIVI - The Patriots Cheerleaders are currently on the island soaking up Aruba's sun and having a great time while shooting their annual Calendar. The group of young ladies are staying at the Mega Divi and enjoying the great hospitality. The beautiful squad attended a cocktail party last evening with the Rotary Club members at Windows on Aruba. And as part of their official program here the cheerleaders will play a game of beach volleyball on Wednesday and perform a pre-game show on Thursday at the Pelican Bar, at Mega Divi. The 2010 Swimsuit Calendar will be reversible and feature 24 beautiful photos of the New England Patriots Cheerleaders against the backdrop of our beaches.

Driftwood Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant offers diners the ultimate dining experience in freshly line caught fish.

ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

Q: Why do we serve only fresh line caught fish?

A: How fresh would you be after a net caught fish frozen import from Asia?



Driftwood restaurant has a long tradition of serving the best seafood and steaks for over 20 years!

Don't forget to make this a must dine at restaurant while on vacation, you are sure to indulge in some great tasty seafood.



Restaurant information and reservation: open daily (closed on Tuesdays) from 5pm-10:30pm. Tel. 583-2515. Located at Klipstraat 12 in the heart of downtown Oranjestad, within driving distance from the resorts. □



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ARUBA

Hard Rock Cafe is "over the top" for fun, food and reviving great memories

The official opening of **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** in January had all the glitz and glamour of any Hollywood carpet event, and the newest addition to this world famous brand of casual eateries is an entertaining journey through musical history, as well as offering a guaranteed great meal at a very reasonable price. Music is so much a part of our lives, often interwoven with the landmark moments; the first kiss, a marriage proposal, the first dance as man and wife. How many times have you heard or said, "**Honey, they are playing our song!**" Hard Rock has all those great

songs and videos in their play list, enveloping patrons in a world of music that brings back those special memories of moments that changed one's life. Founded by Isaac Tigrett and Peter Morton in 1971 and located right next door to Eric Clapton's recording studio in London, the first **Hard Rock Cafe** became an instant hit with those that loved a good "old-fashioned American hamburger" and started a legend, resulting in one of the largest and most successful leisure franchises existing today. Hard Rock's remarkable music memorabilia collection began with a red fender given

Aruba's Flavour



the founders by Eric Clapton, to mark his special table where he came to dine on a daily basis. Not to be outdone, other great names such as The Who followed his example; eventually leading to the assortment of music memorabilia that includes anything from a lock of hair to a five-ton psychedelic bus. In **Aruba** you find no buses, but a fascinating collection of instruments, posters, wild and wicked costumes and

other miscellaneous items, many of them autographed by the legendary performers they commemorate. Dozens of bits of memorabilia and high definition plasma screens create the music world ambiance that defines **Hard Rock Cafe**, as well as their diverse menu of fresh fajitas, authentic western barbecue, and of course, their famous certified Angus beef burgers, huge and juicy, the way a burger was meant to be.

Owners of the **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** are particularly proud of the double bar that serves both inside and out; a stunning canopied terrace allows them to take full advantage of Aruba's famous tropical breezes and agreeable climate. Opening night featured The Wailers, the famous band that made their name with Bob Marley, direct from Jamaica. The appearance of such noted groups and live rock tributes are a trademark of Hard Rock Cafés around the world. **Hard Rock Cafe Aruba** is located in the South Beach Mall across from the Radisson Resort and open seven days a week, from 10:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM Sunday through Thursday and until 2:00 AM on the weekends. It is comforting to know there is a great place to go for late night munching and fun times within an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach Resorts offering not only quality food and beverage at reasonable prices, but a musical trip down Memory Lane!

Preparations start for Aruba Chef & Student Culinary Competition & Festival 2009

Oranjestad,-- The E.P.I (Hospitality & Tourism Sector) with the cooperation of Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Holiday Inn Resort Aruba, Renaissance Resort Aruba and the Aruba Gastronomic Association, are in full preparations for the first "Aruba Chef & Student Culinary Competition and Festival 2009". The main purpose of this event, is to bring local culinary students and local professional chefs together, to expose their culinary know how. The organizing committee strongly believes in encouraging students to continue with their studies through these types of incentives, especially the ones in the tourism sector. Also, the committee would like to mention the fact that our culinary professionals working in the tourism industry are extremely dedicated to the education of the culinary students. By organizing this event we would like to give them the opportunity to be recognized for the tremendous job they are doing within guiding and educating our culinary students.

It is the first time that this type of competition will be held on the island, where education becomes one with the professionals to complete their goals. The participating teams will consist of one coach (who will be one of the culinary professionals of the industry) and 4 culinary students of EPB or EPI Hospitality & Tourism

Unit. Important to mention is that none of the participants know yet what team they will be part of, since the teams will be formed by drawing of student names by the participating coaches. Friday, April 24 2009 is the day where the official drawing of the names took place and the teams were formed and published. The coaches who took this big challenge in dedicating their precious time and sharing their knowledge and expertise with our students are: Executive Chef Sonny Partodikromo (La Cabana All Suite Beach Resort), Executive Chef Scott Schueurmann (Aquagrill), Chef de Partie Gilbert Flemming (Mullingans, Divi Links), Chef de Partie Edymar Tromp (Sensei Sushi Bar), Sous Chef Marlon Dabian (Ruths Chris, Marriott Aruba Resort and Stellaris Casino), Chef Ron van der Put (Salt & Pepper), Chef John Boomkamp (Hadicurari), Chef Bas Kuurstra (Moomba Beach), Chef de Partie Gohaneta Croes (Westin Aruba Resort), Sous Chef Marco Polo Pina (Renaissance Resort Aruba), Sous Chef Luis Vasquez (Renaissance Resort Aruba), Sous Chef Edward Zievinger (Renaissance Resort Aruba), Sous Chef Michael Gomez (Renaissance Aruba Resort), Executive Sous Chef Dennis Daatselaar (Holiday Inn Aruba). If there still are chefs interested in forming part of this big event as a coach, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Eddelyn Dijkhoff, EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit or Ms. Natalie Maduro at ATA.

The official program will start on October 2, 2009. On this day there will be an official opening of this event at E.P.I. Hospitality and Tourism Unit. During the rest of the week the competition will be taking place, together with different other kind of mini competitions which will be open for public. The judges for the chef and student culinary competition are international recognized chefs of the American Culinary Federation, who will be responsible for choosing the winning team. The festival will continue until October 8, 2009, which will be the final day of the competition and festival.

This event is very important, especially for the teams and everyone else who likes to taste good food. The teams will have the opportunity to expose their plates to public. As mentioned before, mini competitions will be taking place. These are open for public in general to participate in. The following mini competitions will be held: Bartender competition, Best Soup competition, My cake is the best Contest, different types of Eating Contest, and much more. Food and Beverage will be sold to public. This whole event will be taking place at EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit while the culinary competition is going on. If you want to participate in one of the mini competitions, please feel free to contact Ms. Eddelyn Dijkhoff at EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit to register.



Chef & Student Culinary Festival 2009

The winning team will become Aruba's official Chef & Student Golden Culinary Team and will obtain the opportunity to represent Aruba in culinary events organized by the Aruba Tourism Authority and the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association in different parts of the world.

To make all this possible, we naturally need the cooperation of the industry in general. If your company or organization

would like to contribute to the future generation of our culinary and hospitality industry, or if you would like to receive more information regarding this event, please feel free to contact Ms. Eddelyn Dijkhoff, Coordinator of the Apprenticeship Program at EPI Hospitality and Tourism Unit, tel: 5258781, e-mail: erdijkhoff@epiaruba.com or with Ms. Natalie Maduro at the A.T.A tel: 5823777 e-mail n.maduro@aruba.

Michelob Ultra Golf Tournament on Queensday April 30, 2009 at The Divi Links

ORANJESTAD - All golfers are cordially invited to attend the great Michelob Ultra Golf Tournament; this will take place on Queensday April 30th, 2009 at The Links. After the success of the Corona Golf Tournament, Playa Liquor decided to once more, in collaboration with The Links team, to organize a Michelob Ultra Golf Tournament.

The tournament will start at 9.30am, it will consist of a two persons scramble, the cost per person will be \$85. There will be a premium bar, outside BBQ, cold Michelob Ultra beer and lots of fun!

There will be prizes for first, second, and third place, also for closest to the pin and longest drive. For more information please contact Pro Golfer James Kiley at 735-5419, Shakira Finsley at 735-5335 or Golf Pro Shop at 581-GOLF. All Golfers are cordially invited to attend the Michelob Ultra Golf Tournament this coming Thursday April 30th, 2009. Make sure you are there!

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Santosa teaches free-style hip hop to AMS participants



BUSHIRI – The contestants of AMS, the Aruba Model Search, in its current 2009 edition, were invited to Santosa Health Club & Spinning Center, by owners Pim Janse-Voermans and his wife Corinne, for a session with Jennifer Aldridge, instructor, choreographer and coach specializing in cheerleading, dance & fitness. Jenn took the girls, then the boys through an intense workout, producing a beautiful free-style hip hop

dance routine at the end of the hour, which was televised by TeleAruba. Santosa Health Club & Spinning Center awarded each of the contestants a month long membership and invited them to visit the new club, in its new location, on the boulevard, effective the beginning of May. To watch the ARUBA MODEL SEARCH 2009, You've Got The Look Contest, turn on TeleAruba Channel 13, Wednesday, at 9 p.m., for a dramatic episode.

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Las Palmas Condominiums wrap up construction at Tierra del Sol



TIERRA DEL SOL -- Las Palmas Condominiums at Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa & Country Club, recently announced the completion of the neighborhood construction.

David Brown Real Estate Managing Director reports that the landscapers and painters are still applying finishing touches to the charming hillside neighborhood, however the majority of owners have already taken possession of their apartments and are happily decorating and moving in furniture and personal belongings.

The new, just-completed neighborhood, consists of 27 apartments ranging in size from 1,335 to 1,755 sq. ft., which are nicely finished and ready to be moved in.

Las Palmas Condominiums offer two and three-bedroom units with remarkable ocean views from all upper levels. Additional features include breathtaking rooftop balconies or private courtyards for outdoor entertainment.

Las Palmas also offers unique free-standing, two-story, three-bedroom villas with condo services and garages, which were enthusiastically received on the market.

With just a handful of units still in inventory for Las Palmas, Tierra del Sol is now gearing up for the development of Catalina Estates an exclusive gated community within a gated community with 40 luxury turn-key residences with undisturbed ocean views. It also offers the fractional ownership at Anabui Residence Club, designed by famed Stofft & Cooney Architects from Naples, Florida, featuring a collection of 36 spacious, concierge-serviced, residences complete with everything from gourmet cookware to luxury linens, serviced in the manner of fine resorts and maintained by a dedicated year round staff. A limited number of units was released at pre-construction prices starting at \$149,900.- and island visitors are invited to drop in to preview the detailed plans, and visit the Anabui site.

Tierra del Sol is Aruba's only Master Planned Gated Community. Being the proud owner of a dream home or condominium in the island's most prestigious address means



waking up to 600 acres of paradise basking in the Caribbean sun. It also means you may gaze at the crystal blue Caribbean Sea from three directions, savor award-winning cuisine, pamper yourself at the spa, work out at the fitness center, tee off on an 18-hole championship golf course, and play tennis under the stars, on any given day.

Or you may simply stroll along Arashi Beach to the rhythm of the surf while the warm tradewinds caress your face. And when you're in the mood to dress in black and paint the town red the casino and nightlife action at the Palm Beach strip is a mere two-

minute drive away. For information and a complete price list, call Tierra del Sol Real Estate at tel.: 586 1010, or check the real estate section of www.tieradelsol.com. The Real Estate Office is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm at the club house.



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La Cabana plants a Tamarijn Tree



EAGLE BEACH – Members of the Engineering Department and the Green & Health Team banded together to plant a Tamarijn, an indigenous tree to the island, just before the “Arubiano y su Tera” lunch-bag lecture. Arubans have a special relationship with the place they call home and La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club has been celebrating Earth Week by paying homage to the

land, the flora, fauna and the environment in its totality. The lunch-bag lecture regarding Arubans and their land provided many tips as to how to prepare the soil and what to plant in order to grow a lovely vegetable garden. Pictures here, the Tamarijn gets a nice garden section to call its home, and the associates getting a bit of an agricultural education.



A SALUTE TO ISRAEL

Israel has just turned 61. Faced with innumerable challenges and hostile neighbors she looks, amazingly, fresher than ever. Her 4000 years of history have only made her wiser, not older. In the tense spring of 1948 Ben Gurion declared the independence of the State of Israel. Few thought it would live long for five Arab armies were waiting to declare war against it. In the new nation and around the world Jews celebrated. Their journey had been long and arduous, marked by genocide and persecution, countless pogroms, the Holocaust. A couple of hours after the declaration war started. It cost many Jewish lives. Incredibly, without a regular army and few weapons, Israel was victorious.

The piece of land that the Jews got after the UN partition was barren and dry, the countless millions of Arabs who were Israel's neighbors had vowed to "throw them to the sea". The new immigrants came from all over the world with different backgrounds, many were Holocaust survivors. They spoke eighty two different languages but Hebrew was revived and became the unifying language. Together with the Israelis that were already there they built, they created with great ingenuity. They transformed the desert into a rich land, green and yielding abundant produce.

They were able to create a complex parliamentary democracy where in the Knesset (Parliament) Jews sit together with Muslims and Druse and are able to express themselves freely, a rarity in the many dictatorial nations of the Middle East.

Their very disciplined army is subordinate to civilian authority and when they have to fight an unwanted war their officers risk their lives together with their soldiers in the front lines.

It is good to feel proud of significant achievements. In this tiny country of 20,000 Km2 with seven million inhabitants so much has been accomplished! Woven in the intricate tapestry of new immigrants there was abundant genius and creativity. Israelis are highly educated and excel at medicine, scientific research, hi-tech, agriculture, combating desertification, etc.

They share their knowledge and advancements with less developed nations and are the first to send medical and emergency

teams to countries where disaster has struck.

Too little is known about this nation and its incredible accomplishments.

The international press does its best to show it in a negative light, and the biased reporting flourishes. However, recently the UN department that measures Human Development ranked Israel next to Germany among the thirty leading nations of the world. It

has a per capita of \$29,000 a year and is working to close the gap between the middle class and the less privileged.

Israel's economy is very strong and many multinational corporations, like for instance Microsoft, have important branches there.

The Government consistently supports research projects and their development, and promotes the creation of startup companies that are at the vanguard of science

and technology.

Israeli scientists and writers have received four Nobel Prizes. Even before its independence the pioneers had founded museums and universities like Hebrew University and Tel Aviv U., today considered among the most prestigious in the world.

The combination of so many backgrounds has produced very rich works of art. A number of orchestras, world renowned

musicians and composers as well as many dance groups of all styles enrich the lives of Israelis, performing at theaters, open air festivals and also abroad.

In spite of all these achievements Israel's most fervent desire is a just and lasting peace, surrounded by neighbors who coexist in harmony and are willing to commit themselves to sustain this integral peace and to mutual acceptance.



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Bloody Oyster Cocktails that will blow your mind... **At Moby Dick's**

PASEO HERENCIA—Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall.



friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

The menu promises to be a Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the

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More than just the best pizza on the island... Casa Tua Barcelona features mouth-watering Ossobuco

Downtown Aventura Mall Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Today's highlight of the menu is the Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his son Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef



repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more

Casa Tua Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm.

Casa Tua Downtown
open from 11am to 11pm,
Sunday from 5pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations
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BUGALOE BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Sunday May 10, 2009



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Fun, Friends... and Volleyball **www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com**

PALM BEACH - Sunday May 10th the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is organizing for it's 3rd anniversary Aruba's Annual Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this funfilled tournament that takes place on the white powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. There will be 3 team categories FUN (6 players),

ADVANCED (4 players) and PRO (2 players). In a relaxed ambiance DJ Jeroen will play his favorite tunes while you can enjoy special prices on Amstel Bright. There will also be a full program for the kids. You are welcome to visit, even if you are not playing.

**Bugaloe is located at
De Palm Pier on
Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.**

The after party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar where the band Marisela & Aquarius will perform love on stage. Put the date in your chalendar today!

Registration

It's already possible to sign up. At **www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com** you will find all the details and also a registration form.



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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse offering Spa Cuisine



Palm Beach – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing

flavors with citrus, spice and herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," he adds, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Smeets reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banters, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the popular Soba Noodles.



The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Smeets explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean.

Fun Island Living, at T.H. Palm & Company



PALMBEACH--The beautiful T.H. Palm & Company offers an exceptional, upscale shopping experience aptly described as "Fun Island Living." Owned by long time Aruba resident Jodi Tobman who has several other boutiques

on the island, Jodi reports she had a lot of fun creating this magnificent jewel of a boutique which first opened its doors in June of 2004. A wide variety of distinctive items are on display on interesting antique décor pieces, from luscious silk

tropical shirts for men to stylish resort wear and exclusive artisan jewelry for women. The theme of "Fun Island Living" is apparent in the wide selection of accessories for home including tropical barware and serving pieces, books, artwork and lamps.

There are handbags "to live for" and an array of gifts for children of all ages as well as a variety of novelty gift items for pets. When visiting T.H. Palm & Company, we suggest you take your time as you will need to browse from floor to ceiling in order not to miss anything. Larger items can be shipped to your home address at a nominal fee and shipping is always an available option. For those who find it hard to choose from among all the enchanting objects in stock or for those who do not have time to shop, a Personal Shopper service is available to assist at no extra charge, by appointment, please. T.H. Palm & Company is conveniently located in front of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and offers late night shopping and convenient parking. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fridays open until 11 p.m. Telephone +297 586 8909. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com



Continued from page 1

The long hitters had the chance to knock themselves out on the 6th hole in the longest drive competition. The winners were Bjorn Angela (men) and Eef (ladies).

While the Nearest To The Pin competition was held at 7th hole, the camera crews of www.sporttvaruba.com professionally broadcasted the golfers' efforts so that supporters at home could follow the event online. The winners of the nearest were Andy Hunt in the men category and Carla Schipper in the ladies category. After playing 18 holes the golfers traded the wonderful ambiance of Tierra del Sol for cheerful Bugaloe at De Palm Pier where the award ceremony took place. On behalf of the organizers and the players Tierra del Sol's Head Pro Oliver Riding, thanked the many sponsors: Arion Wine Company,



ASD, Bersah, Bingo, B55, Caribbean Mercantile Bank, De Palm Tours, Heineken Aruba, Intermezzo Spa, Le Dôme Restaurant, Media Services International, Pipe Cleaning Service, Playa Liquor, Superfood, Taste of Belgium, Tierra del Sol and of course Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill.

"The idea was to organize a tournament reflecting the typical Bugaloe style of fun and pleasure. When I look at the faces of the players, I know

we have succeeded," Bugaloe manager Myrthe Veltman states proudly. With cheers and applause the winners honored. The first prize went to Travis Bernadina and Michel Frank. First runner up was Cerilio Vrolijk and Jose Rodriguez. The third prize went to Stefan Legger and Stephan van de Varst. The event was concluded with an extended dinner buffet and of course plenty of Heineken beer. Pictures of the event are available at www.bugaloe.com.



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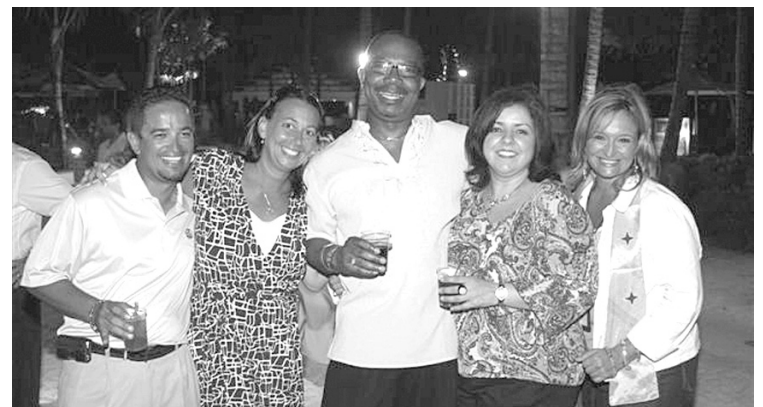
Marriott scores again with great reception



PALM BEACH - Marriott Resort was the talk of the town when they hosted all member of the Annual Travel Conference Aruba (ATCA), over 90 tour operators and north American airlines took part on this annual conference.

Guests were very happy with all the surprises that the Marriott had for them especially the folk dance group who had some guest participate with them, everybody had the chance to take pictures. Exeptional hors d'oeuvres and drinks were the comments of some of the guests. Together with their official host the ATA Aruba Tourism Authority the next day all took a tour of the newly \$50 Million dollar facelift that the hotel got, we might ad Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List,

Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com.





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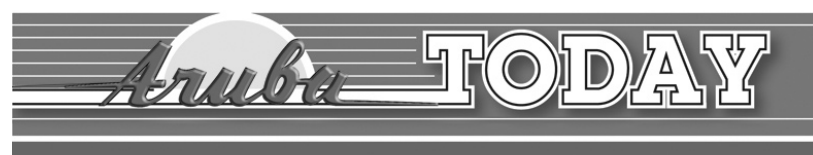
Appetizer: Mustard soup or fish soup or tomato soup

Middle course: Kebab pincho served with tzatziki

*Main course: Fish stew or Tenderloin pincho on spicy vegetables
or Mexican chicken platter*

Dessert: Brownie with ice cream or fruit sorbet with ice cream

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LET'S MESS WITH TEXAS

DALLAS -- Rush Limbaugh, the entertainer, announced the other day that he was moving out of New York City because New York Gov. David Paterson proposed higher state taxes on the rich. Paterson reacted by saying that if he had known Limbaugh would go, he would have proposed the tax a long time ago.

I had about the same reaction when Texas Gov. Rick Perry began babbling about the Lone Star State seceding from the United States. His rebel yell prompted a scene that may not be remembered as long as the Alamo, but should be. There were a few dozen of Perry's constituents waving "Secede Now" signs in one hand and American flags in the other.

Perry, who had his facts and history all wrong -- practically a given for Texas politicians -- was reacting to his own interpretation of President Obama's stimulus packages. What made him maddest was that the federal plan would have given unemployed Texans more money than the state gives them now. Then he got even madder when Democrats and other Republicans -- Perry is a Republican -- joined together to override his veto of that part of the Obama package of state aid.

"Texas is a unique place," he shouted. No argument there. "When we came into the Union in 1845, one of the issues was that we would be able to leave if

we decided to do that."

Wrong! In that respect, Texas is the same as every other state. In fact, if you remember, Texas did secede, or tried to, once before. That was in 1861, The War Between the States and all that.

Perry is not alone. In a quick state poll published by The Dallas Morning News, almost one in five Texans said they would vote for secession if they were given the chance. One of them was that great Texan (and American) Tom DeLay, who brought so much honor to the state during his years in Congress. DeLay praised Perry for upholding Texas "sovereignty." The editor of D Magazine, Wick Allison, complained in an editorial that the national recession was far worse than Dallas' economic problems, and why should relatively prosperous Texans help Americans who did not help them during a local slump in housing prices from 1987 to 1994.

"Now the rest of the country has decided to drag us down with it," wrote Allison. "I find that more than a little irritating."

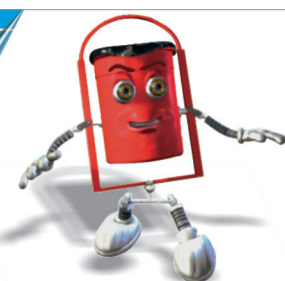
As for local Democrats, they are having some fun with such talk. Said state representative Jim Dunnam of Waco: "Talk of secession is an attack on our country. It can be nothing else. It is the ultimate anti-American statement."

Both Democrats and newspapers are saying that

what Perry is really afraid of is not the United States but only one woman in it, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who has been talking about challenging him in the Republican primary for governor next year. He has been calling the lady a "Washington insider," ordinary stuff like that, but now maybe he intends to attack her as "an American." This is a state, after all, that booted its founder, Sam Houston, out of the governor's office because he suggested back in 1861 that it might not be such a good idea to take on the entire United States.

However serious Perry is, maybe the rest of us should take him at his word. Let Texas secede, keep its death sentences and become a buffer state between the drug wars of Mexico and the drug users of the United States. People like me with family in Texas will be bothered by getting visas to visit our own. But, presumably, anyone with half a brain will be heading north. We'll have a whole new illegal immigrant problem, Texans. Well, maybe we'll just have to build another border fence to keep them out.

Actually, what I regret about this messing with Texas is that it's just too late. If it had happened a few years ago, the rest of us, loyal Americans, would have been spared George W. Bush. He would have been president of the Republic of Texas. You can imagine the shape the former state would be in after its pre-emptive invasion of Mexico.



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Loyal visitors honored at Casa del Mar Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at Casa del Mar vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest

visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those

with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at Casa del Mar they call their home away from home. Ronnie & Laura Hord were honored as a Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 21 years. And also Tony & Liz Guglielmeiti were honored as a distinguished visitor.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Xiomara from Casa del Mar Resort



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Beauty in Aruba:

Dr. Gogorza rescues his 7th Frigate Bird

Animal lover like no other!



Photo's by Greg Peterson & Noud Fransen

ORANJESTAD – Sunday April 26 2009. Dr. Ricardo Gogorza is a passionate animal rescuer. He has saved especially a great number of birds. Whenever someone finds a wounded or sick bird, it ends up at his home. He then treats them as his own patients for a duration of some days up to weeks until he is convinced they have a chance to return to the wild. He then sets them free and as you can see, with great satisfaction. Dr. Gogorza you are a hero and a national treasure. Thank you and once again pabien!!



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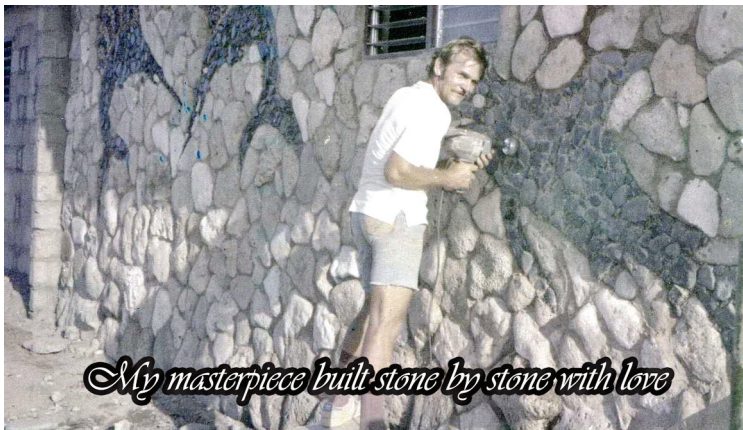
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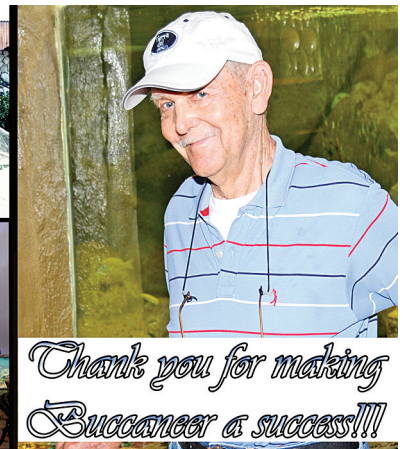
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In loving memory of Josef Munzenhofer

Buccaneer Restaurant closes for funeral

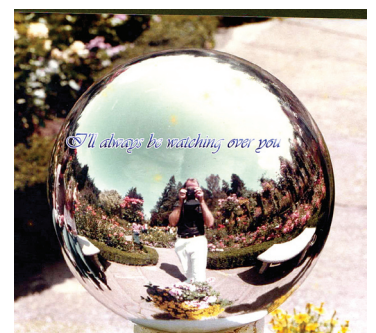


GASPARITO- The legendary restaurant, Buccaneer is Aruba's oldest International seafood restaurant with a reputation of culinary greatness that spans almost 3 decades. It all started in 1980 when Josef Munzenhofer said goodbye after many years of serving the public of Aruba in the hotel sector. Josef followed his dream 'Buccaneer' which turned into a reality. Josef built the Buccaneer on love with his son Josef (Vasty) S. Munzenhofer along side with partner and long time friend Peter Dorer. The Buccaneer began with only 80 seating's with 12 – 60 gallon saltwater aquariums. Within 6 months an addition with another 80 seats and a 7,500 gallon saltwater tank was added to the fast growing restaurant. The Buccaneer started without a telephone for almost a year and now has grown into a legend. The restaurant began with 15 employees and now employees 28. All of this was made with love from a man who started his journey with a dream; his vision became a reality. Josef Munzenhofer was a man of honor, full of life, happiness and a golden heart. He raised a family of 4 children and made sure that each child



was loved with great care. He taught his children the ways of life and put them in the right direction.

For everyone who knew Josef, they will forever cherish how he loved making his daily rounds greeting the guests. Josef especially loved his repeat guests and seeing the families which once were children and now are bringing their children. "It's a blessing to see my guests return every year and to hear the stories of what once was and to meet the little ones and watch their eyes fill up with excitement to see the underwater life at their fingertips. It is great see my grandchildren now take place of what my son was taught 30 years ago. Everyday the family goes out to catch various fish for the aquarium, it's a real treat watching the family grow and knowing that the Buccaneer restaurant will survive for many more years. The biggest thanks go to our guests, local & tourists who return to our family restaurant and let others know of their terrific experience at our restaurant." stated Josef before he passed away. His ocean blue eyes and



his soul will always remain watching over his family and the restaurant. Buccaneer will be closed today for funeral services at Santa Anna Church from 2:00-4:00 pm and the burial procession will take place adjacent to Santa Anna following. God Bless Josef Munzenhofer and may he rest in peace.

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Ana Navarro, 40, wears a mask as she waits in line with others to clear U.S. Customs crossing from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, into El Paso, Texas, Monday, April 27, 2009. U.S. Customs officials are paying attention to anyone who may be sick and asking travelers about illnesses if they are entering from regions with confirmed swine flu outbreaks.

Associated Press

U.S. responding as if swine flu will be pandemic

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Confirming at least 40 cases of swine flu in the U.S., the Obama administration said Monday it was responding aggressively as if the outbreak would spread into a full pandemic. Officials urged Americans against most travel to Mexico as the virus that began there spread to the United States and beyond. President Barack Obama urged calm, saying there was reason for concern but not yet “a cause for alarm.”

Yet just in case, administration officials said that they were already waging a vigorous campaign of prevention, unsure of the outbreak’s severity or where it would show up next.

U.S. customs officials began checking people entering U.S. territory. Millions of doses of flu-fighting medications from a federal stockpile were on their way to states, with priority given to the five already affected and to border states. Federal agencies were conferring with state and international governments.

“We want to make sure that we have equipment where it needs to be, people where they need to be and, most important, information shared at all levels,” Janet Napolitano, head of the Homeland Security

Department, told reporters.

Her briefing came shortly before the World Health Organization raised the severity of its pandemic alert level to four from three on a six-point scale. Level four means there is sustained human-to-human spread in at least one country. Level six is a full-fledged pandemic, an epidemic that has spread to a wide geographic area.

“We are proceeding as if we are preparatory to a full pandemic,” Napolitano said.

She said travel warnings for trips to Mexico would remain in place as long as swine flu is detected.

Dr. Richard Besser, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that so far the disease in the United States seemed less severe than the outbreak in Mexico, where more than 1,600 cases had been reported and where the suspected death toll had climbed to 149. No deaths had been reported in the U.S. and only one hospitalization.

“I wouldn’t be overly reassured by that,” Besser told reporters at CDC’s headquarters in Atlanta. He raised the possibility of more severe cases — and deaths — in the United States.

A European Union official warned against travel to parts of the U.S. as well as Mexico, but Besser said that seemed unwarranted.

Continued on next page

Same-sex couples tie the knot in Iowa



Couples waiting to apply for a marriage license line up outside the Polk County administrative building, Monday, April 27, 2009, in Des Moines, Iowa. Same-sex couples in Iowa began applying for marriage license on Monday after a state Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay unions took effect.

Associated Press

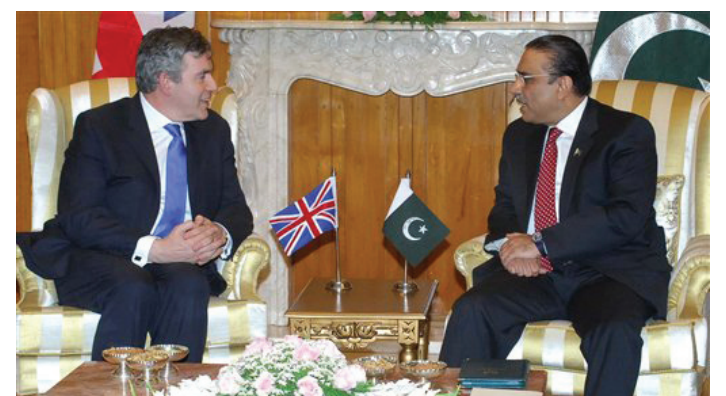
AMY LORENTZEN

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Same-sex couples lined up to apply for marriage licenses at government offices across Iowa on Monday, as several became among the first in the state to wed.

Melisa Keeton and Shelley Wolfe were declared “legally married” by pastor Peg Esperanza during a ceremony in front of the Polk County administrative offices in Des Moines. It didn’t take long before they were referring to one another as “wife.”

Continued on page 3



In this picture released by Pakistan’s Press Information Department, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, left, meets Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad, Pakistan on Monday, April 27, 2009. Pakistani intelligence agencies believe Osama bin Laden may be dead, but there’s no proof one way or another about the al-Qaida chief’s fate, the country’s president said.

Associated Press

Pakistani leader: Bin Laden ‘may be dead’ - or not

NAHAL TOOSI

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan’s president said Monday his intelligence agencies believe Osama bin Laden may be dead, but he added there is no proof. Other Pakistani officials and a U.S.

counterterrorism official said they thought the al-Qaida chief is alive. U.S. officials said bin Laden is most likely hiding in the mountains along Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan, in particular the lawless tribal regions.

Continued on page 6

Continued from front page



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, Monday, April 27, 2009.
Associated Press

State Department spokesman Robert A. Wood said the EU commissioner's remarks were his "personal opinion," not an official position, and thus the department had no comment. "We don't want people to panic at this point," Wood said. Still Bessersaidofthesituation, "We are taking it seriously and

acting aggressively. ... Until the outbreak has progressed, you really don't know what it's going to do." The U.S. stepped up checks of people entering the country by air, land and sea and issued a new U.S. travel advisory suggesting "nonessential travel to Mexico be avoided." The confirmed cases

announced on Monday were double the 20 earlier reported by the CDC. Besser said this was due to further testing — not further spreading of the virus — in New York at a school in Queens, bringing the New York total to 28. The CDC reported 40 cases: 28 in New York, seven in California, two in Texas, two in Kansas and one in Ohio. Other information suggested three cases in Texas and eight in California, bringing the total to 42. Besser said other cases have been reported in Ohio, Kansas, Texas and California. He said that, of the 40 cases, only one person has been hospitalized and all have recovered. Countries across the globe increased their vigilance amid increasing worries about a worldwide pandemic. Obama told a gathering of scientists that his administration's Department of Health and Human Services had declared a public health emergency "as a precautionary tool to ensure

that we have the resources we need at our disposal to respond quickly and effectively." "This is obviously a cause for concern and requires a heightened state of alert, but it's not a cause for alarm," Obama said. He said he was getting regular updates. The Senate has yet to confirm a secretary of human services, a surgeon general or a director of CDC. The absence of those officials left Besser and Napolitano to brief reporters on the swine flu outbreak. The quickening pace of developments in the United States in response to the spreading new flu strain was accompanied by a host of varying responses around the world. Mexico, at the center of the outbreak, suspended schools nationwide. China, Taiwan and Russia considered quarantines, and several Asian countries scrutinized visitors arriving at their airports. U.S. customs officials began checking people entering U.S.

territory. Officers at airports, seaports and border crossings were watching for signs of illness, said Customs and Border Protection spokesman Lloyd Easterling. While "the borders are open," Easterling said officials were "taking a second look at folks who may be displaying a symptom of illness." If a traveler reports not feeling well, the person will be questioned about symptoms and, if necessary, referred to a CDC official for additional screening, Easterling said. The customs officials were wearing personal protective gear, such as gloves and masks, he said. The CDC can send someone to the hospital if they suspect a case, but no one is being refused entry. Also, the CDC is reading "yellow cards" with disease information for travelers, in case they later experience symptoms. The border monitoring resembles that done during the SARS epidemic earlier in the decade.



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Celebrating 25 years!

Same-sex

Continued from front page

"It's not very romantic is it?" Melisa Keeton joked, referring to the location of the ceremony and the media attention. The couple was allowed to wed after getting a judge to waive the state's three-day waiting period before marriages are deemed valid.

The couple, who will share the last name Keeton, believed they were the first same-sex couple married in Polk County, and possibly the state, since the April 3 Iowa Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage. The ruling made Iowa the third state to allow same-sex marriage, joining Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Officials said the Polk County recorder's office had received 57 marriage applications from same-sex couples by 11:30 a.m.

Esperanza, of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Des Moines, also married at least two other couples, all at no charge.

She expressed surprise there weren't more clerical "collars here from accepting churches."

"God sent me here today, and I've said OK," she said.

Esperanza, 62, and plans to marry her partner of nine years, Vicky Esperanza, 54, in October.

Alicia Zacher, 24, and Jessica Roach, 22, both of Des Moines, said they had a 4 p.m. appointment to get married if they could get a waiver. They said they wanted to get married as soon as possible after seeing how California voters reinstated a ban on same-sex marriage.

"You just never know when they'll try to take it away," Roach said.

A handful of Iowa's largest counties saw an initial rush, but foot traffic from same-sex couples began to slow toward midmorning.

At the Pottawattamie County recorder's office in western Iowa, Marilyn Hebing said about 10 couples filed their applications after the office

opened, and more were slowly trickling in.

"It was pretty exciting, they were cheering out there," she said of the early morning crowd.

In eastern Iowa, Johnson County Recorder Kim Painter, Iowa's only openly gay recorder, said that within the first half hour her office had accepted about a half dozen applications and had about 10 more couples waiting to file. Some waited outside under a tent and sipped coffee in what Painter called a "festive atmosphere."

Painter said she and her partner plan to apply to be married this week.

Some judges refused to issue waivers to same-sex couples.

In Cerro Gordo County, District Court Judge Colleen Weiland said she was presented with two applications from same-sex couples and denied them both.

"Some judges, frankly, interpret it a lot more leniently than I do," she said of the law



Jodie Vandermark-Martinez, right, places a ring on the finger of Jessica Vandermark-Martinez, left, during their wedding ceremony outside the Polk County administrative office, Monday, April 27, 2009, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rev. Peg Esperanza, center, performs the ceremony. Same-sex couples in Iowa began applying for marriage license on Monday after a state Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay unions took effect.

Associated Press

on waivers. "The ones that were presented this morning I didn't believe to be an emergency or extraordinary circumstance."

Scott County Recorder Rita Vargas said three same-sex couples applied for a marriage license by midday on Monday. One couple asked for a

waiver, but a judge denied the request.

The couple, 22-year-old Tearese Bomar, and 27-year-old Shamera Page, both of Davenport, said on the waiver form that they had waited a long time to have their union recognized and didn't want to wait any longer, Vargas said.

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Congressional Democrats seek quick pact on budget plan

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Congressional Democrats pushed to wrap up negotiations on a budget plan that would help President Barack Obama's ambitious goal of overhauling the health care system.

Negotiators from the House and Senate met Monday, and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., confirmed details of a tentative pact reached last week that would prevent Senate Republicans from delaying or blocking Obama's plan to vastly expand government-subsidized health care.

The \$3.5 trillion plan for the budget year starting Oct. 1 embraces several of Obama's key goals, including health care reform, funds for domestic programs and clean energy, and a tax increase for



Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., second from left, holds up two gavels before the start of the Senate and House budget resolution conference committee meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, April 27, 2009. Conrad is joined at the table by, from left, Senate Budget Committee ranking member Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., and ranking member Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Associated Press

legislation.

Democrats and independent allies control 58 Senate seats.

Democrats hope the House will adopt the budget on Tuesday and the Senate on Wednesday, which marks Obama's 100 days in office.

Obama and his Democratic allies say they still want support from Republicans for health care legislation but need the option of expedited action in case the debate becomes overly partisan.

"For this bipartisan process to take root, Republicans must demonstrate a sincere interest in legislating," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., wrote in a letter Monday to GOP Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "Rather than just saying no, you must be willing to offer concrete and constructive proposals."



Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., left, and Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., right are arrested outside the Sudanese Embassy during a protest against the Sudanese government's actions in Darfur on Monday, April 27, 2009 in Washington.

Associated Press

Five lawmakers, others arrested at Darfur protest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight U.S. activists protesting the expulsion of aid groups in Darfur have been arrested in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington. Humanitarian leaders and five U.S. lawmakers were led away from the embassy in handcuffs Monday after crossing a police line.

The activists are urging world leaders to take a stand against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's decision to expel 16 aid agencies from Darfur.

Rep. Keith Ellison says it is wrong to deny aid to what he calls "the most vulnerable people on our planet."

The United Nations says up to 300,000 people have died in Darfur, where ethnic African rebel groups have been fighting the Arab-dominated national government for six years.

individuals making more than \$200,000 a year or couples making more than \$250,000.

But the plan would allow Obama's signature \$400 tax cut for most workers to expire at the end of next year. Even after squeezing the defense and war budgets to levels that are probably unrealistic, the plan would cause a deficit of \$523 billion in five years.

"I think this is a good budget," Conrad said. But, he added, "Much more will have to be done to get us on a more sustainable course," including slowing the growth of benefit programs like Medicare and overhauling the tax code.

A drive by moderate House "Blue Dog" Democrats — with support from Obama — to require tax cuts and increases in federal benefit programs to be offset with higher taxes or spending cuts was snagging the talks most of the day on Monday. The House moderates were searching for ways to get a balky Senate to go along and enact such a "pay-as-you-go" requirement.

Under such a pay-as-you-go law, the budget would be cut automatically if taxes or so-

called mandatory spending programs are changed in ways that add to the deficit. The existing pay-as-you-go provision is simply a rule that has been waived on key occasions.

The budget plan would patch the alternative minimum tax for three years to prevent more than 20 million taxpayers from getting socked with increases averaging \$2,000 or so. The estate tax would be kept at current levels and allow for estates up to \$7 million to be exempt from the tax with a 45 percent rate applying to inheritances above that.

It would cut Obama's request of about \$50 billion worth of increases for non-defense agency operating budgets by about \$10 billion, lowering the increases from 10 percent on average to 8 percent.

Under Capitol Hill's arcane rules, the annual congressional budget produces an outline for follow-up tax and spending legislation. Most importantly, the measure would allow Obama's health plan to pass the Senate by a simple majority instead of the 60 votes that are needed for plenty of other

The fast-track rules also would apply to Obama's plan to eliminate lender subsidies on banks and other lenders presently participating in the federal student loan program. Direct lending by the government would replace the program, with the savings dedicated to boosting Pell Grants for lower-income college students.

While handing Obama a victory, there is still an extraordinary amount of work before Obama's vision of health care reform becomes a reality, including raising taxes and cutting spending to generate \$1 trillion or more over the next decade to fund the health care initiative.

The budget plan also anticipates the expiration of former President George W. Bush's tax cuts on wealthier people's income and investments at the end of next year. But it ignores Obama's calls for raising taxes to help pay for his health care initiative by reducing the benefits wealthier people take on itemized deductions like charitable gifts and mortgage interest.

Jet flyover in lower Manhattan sets off panic

SARA KUGLER

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — An airliner and supersonic fighter jet zoomed past the lower Manhattan skyline in a flash just as the work day was beginning Monday. Within minutes, startled financial workers streamed out of their offices, fearing a nightmarish replay of the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

For a half-hour, the Boeing 747 and F-16 jet circled the Statue of Liberty and the lower Manhattan skyline near the World Trade Center site. Offices evacuated. Dispatchers were inundated with calls. Witnesses thought the planes were flying dangerously low. But the flyover was nothing but a photo opportunity, apparently one of a series of flights to get pictures of the plane in front of national landmarks.

It was carried out by the Defense Department with little warning, infuriating New York officials and putting the White House on the defense. Even Mayor Michael Bloomberg didn't know about it, and he later called it "insensitive" to fly so near the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The director of the White House military office, Louis Caldera, took the blame a few hours later. One of the planes was a 747 that is called Air Force One when used by the president.

"Last week, I approved a mission over New York. I take responsibility for that decision," Caldera said. "While federal authorities took the proper steps to notify state and local authorities in New York and New Jersey, it's clear that the mission created confusion and disruption. I apologize and take responsibility for any distress that flight caused." When told of the flight, President Barack Obama was furious, a White House official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Still, federal officials provided few details and wouldn't say why the public and area building security managers weren't notified. They also wouldn't address why someone thought it was a wise decision to send two jets into New York City, all for a few photos with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop. An administration official said the purpose of the photo op was to update file photos of the president's plane near the famous statue.

This official said the White House military office told the Federal Aviation Administration that it periodically updates file photos of Air Force One near national landmarks, such as the statute in the New York harbor and the Grand Canyon. The official requested anonymity to give more details than the official White House announcement. An Air Force combat photographer took pictures from one of the fighter jets, administration officials said. The photo op was combined

with a training exercise to save money, according to another administration official who also spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak publicly about the behind-the-scenes discussions about the flight.

The FAA notified the New York Police Department of the flyover, telling them photos of the Air Force One jet would be taken about 1,500 feet above the Statue of Liberty around 10 a.m. Monday. It had a classified footnote that said "information in this document shall not be released to the public or the media."

"Why the Defense Department wanted to do a photo op right around the site of the World Trade Center catastrophe defies the imagination," Bloomberg said. "Poor judgment would be a nice way to phrase it. ... Had I known about it, I would have called them right away and asked them not to."

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said typically a flight like this would be publicized



In this image taken with a cell phone by Jason McLane, the primary presidential aircraft, a Boeing 747 known as Air Force One when the president is aboard, flies low over New York Harbor, followed by an F-16 chase plane during a federal government photo op Monday, April 27, 2009.

Associated Press

to avoid causing a panic, but they were under orders not to in this case. They regularly get requests for flyovers, but without secrecy restrictions. The FAA also alerted an official in the mayor's office, but he didn't tell Bloomberg, who said he first learned about it when his "BlackBerry" went off crazy with people complaining about it."

Workers in lower Manhattan were stunned by what they saw.

John Leitner, a floor trader at the New York Mercantile Exchange Building, said about 1,000 people "went into a total panic" and ran out of the building around 10 a.m. after seeing the planes whiz nearby.

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Bin laden

Continued from front page

“We continue to believe that bin Laden is alive,” said the U.S. official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to discuss the matter on the record. Reports of bin Laden’s death or of near-captures have punctuated his years on the run since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, only to be seemingly debunked by periodic audio and video recordings. The latest recording emerged in March, in which bin Laden referred to the December-January Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, calling it a “holocaust,” and spoke of the January election of Somalia’s U.N.-backed president, calling for him to be overthrown.

In an interview Monday with international media outlets, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said American officials had told him they do not know where bin Laden is. “They are much more informed,” Zardari said. “They’ve been actually after him for a longer time. They’ve got more equipment. They’ve got more intelligence. ... so they tell us they have no trace at the moment.” Zardari added that his country’s intelligence agencies “obviously feel that he does not exist anymore,” but he didn’t explain how or when they reached that conclusion, and quickly qualified his comment by saying bin Laden “may be dead.” “That’s not confirmed. We can’t confirm that,” he said.

“It’s still in between fiction and fact.” Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, appearing later Monday with his visiting British counterpart at a news conference, seemed surprised when a reporter asked about Zardari’s remarks. “I don’t know what are the comments of the president, but at the same time, I must clarify this, that nobody knows about Osama bin Laden,” Gilani said. “We don’t know about it, whether he is alive or dead.” Mahmood Shah, a former security chief in the tribal regions, said he believes bin Laden is alive. “Where, I don’t know. If he had died, we would have heard a lot of noise among the militants. From that I’d guess that he is alive,” he said. Ben Venzke, director



Visiting British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, left, addresses a joint news conference with his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, April 27, 2009. Brown said Britain would give more aid to Pakistan to improve education and other sectors along the border with particular focus on girls’ schooling to lesser the allure of extremism.

Associated Press

of IntelCenter, the U.S. contractor that tracks extremist propaganda, said it was unlikely al-Qaida would keep bin Laden’s death a secret. “Bin Laden’s death will likely

be celebrated by the group and its affiliates as him having achieved martyrdom as opposed to the group seeing it as a crushing and demoralizing blow,” Venzke said.

EU police disperse Serb protest in Kosovo’s north

NEBI QENA

Associated Press Writer MITROVICA, Kosovo (AP) — Serbs tossed two hand grenades and shot at European Union police officers who used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse a crowd on Monday, in the gravest incident since the EU took over policing Kosovo from the United Nations last year. Only minor injuries were reported, a spokesman for the EU police mission said. Dozens of NATO peacekeepers in riot gear and armored vehicles were rushed in to support police after protesters broke through Kosovo police lines trying to stop the building of homes for ethnic Albanians in Kosovo’s tense north. Shots were also fired in the direction EU police officers. Monday’s incident follows a similar one Saturday at the same construction site in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica.

Serbs have conditioned the return of ethnic Albanians



French KFOR soldiers face Serbs on the landmark bridge over the Ibar river, after EU special police guarding Albanian houses used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse hundreds of Serbs who tried to prevent reconstruction of ethnic Albanian houses in the northern Serb-dominated part of the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Monday, April 27, 2009. The action on Monday highlights the tensions between the two communities in the town and comes days after a similar intervention.

Associated Press

in northern Kosovo with the return of Serbs to the Albanian-run south. The beleaguered minority resists the deployment of EU’s rule of law mission because it was made possible under a plan that opened the way for Kosovo to declare independence from Serbia. Mitrovica is Kosovo’s ethnic hot spot where the ethnic Albanian majority that runs

the southern part of the town often clashes with Serbs that control Kosovo’s north that borders the rest of Serbia.

Kosovo’s drive for independence has received strong backing from the United States and major European Union nations and 58 countries have so far recognized Kosovo as an independent country.

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PG PAUL BLART: MALL COP	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:10	6:20 2:15	8:20 late show: 12:15	
PG-13 MADEA GOES TO JAIL	daily: 5:20 matinee: 12:55	7:35 3:10	9:55 late show: 12:05	
PG DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:15	6:00 2:10	7:55 late show: 11:50	
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PG-13 OBSESSED	daily: 5:05 matinee: 12:25	7:20 2:45	9:50 late show: 12:05	NEW
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PG-13 12 ROUNDS	daily: 5:10 matinee: 12:30	7:30 2:50	9:50 late show: 12:10	
PG-13 DUPLICITY	daily: 4:25 matinee: 1:55	6:55	9:20 late show: 11:55	
PG MONSTERS VS ALIENS	daily: 5:40 matinee: 1:20	7:50 3:30	9:55 late show: 12:00	
PG-13 FAST & FURIOUS	daily: 5:45 matinee: 1:25	7:55 3:35	10:10 late show: 12:30	

Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat

Israel built, planned 9,000 homes on war-won land

KARIN LAUB

Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Israel's previous government built or issued bids for some 9,000 homes for Israelis in Jerusalem and the West Bank, despite its promise to pursue a peace deal with the Palestinians, settlement monitors said Monday, summarizing Ehud Olmert's three years as prime minister.

The Israeli watchdog groups Peace Now and Ir Amim urged President Barack Obama to step in quickly and pressure Israel's new prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to halt further settlement expansion, particularly in the areas of Jerusalem the Palestinians want for their future capital.

"The more time the international community and the Obama administration will require to generate a political process, the more adamant they need to be to save Israel from itself, because we are losing the two-state solution," said Daniel Seidemann of Ir Amim, a group that promotes coexistence in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu supports continued construction in settlements, opposes a division of Jerusalem and has not accepted the notion of a Palestinian state. His positions could lead to growing friction with the international community, though he has said he is reviewing policy.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas insisted Monday that a settlement freeze is a prerequisite for resuming peace talks with Israel. Abbas' year of negotiations with Olmert ended inconclusively.

Abbas also rejected Israeli demands that Palestinians not only recognize the state of Israel — as Abbas and others have — but recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

"Name yourself, it's not my business," he said. "All I know is that there is the state of Israel, in the borders of 1967, not one centimeter more, not one centimeter less. Anything else, I don't accept."

Abbas' comments drew an angry response from Israel. "This is more evidence that the

Palestinians are not interested in true peace with Israel," said Ofer Akunis, a lawmaker in Netanyahu's Likud Party.

Since capturing the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast War, Israel has built homes for about 470,000 Israelis there, including some 190,000 who moved to east Jerusalem.

From January 2006 to January 2009, roughly the period of the Olmert government, Israel built some 5,100 homes in West Bank settlements and issued bids for another 500 housing units there, said Hagit Ofra of Peace Now. Another 560 structures, including stone houses and mobile homes, were erected in dozens of unauthorized settlement outposts, Ofra said.

In the Palestinian-claimed areas of Jerusalem, the Olmert government issued bids for 2,400 homes for Israelis, she said. About one-third of the city's 750,000 residents are Palestinians.

In the latest project for Israelis, construction has begun on 62 apartments, in three buildings



Palestinian construction workers build a new building complex to be housed by Israelis in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber, Monday, April 27, 2009. The Palestinians won't be pressured into resuming peace talks with Israel as long as construction in Jewish settlements continues, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said in a tough speech Monday.

Associated Press

of up to eight stories, in the Palestinian neighborhood of Zawahra in east Jerusalem, Seidemann said Monday.

Jerusalem municipal officials declined to comment.

Palestinians complain that Israeli housing policies are discriminatory, making it difficult for them to obtain building permits.

Also Monday, U.S. consular officials toured the West Bank

area just east of Jerusalem, where one of Israel's largest settlements, Maaleh Adumim, is located.

Previous Israeli governments prepared plans for another settlement, known as E-1, across a major highway from Maaleh Adumim. However, the project was blocked by the Bush administration because it would effectively cut off a future Palestinian capital in Jerusalem from the West Bank.

Watchdog warns arms transfers to Mideast rising

By MALIN RISING

Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM — The volume of weapons exported to the Middle East has risen sharply in the last four years, threatening to destabilize the volatile region further, a leading Swedish think tank warned Monday.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said arms exports to the Middle East increased 38 percent in the period 2004 to 2008, compared with 1999 to 2003. The United States supplied most of the arms although major shipments also came from France.

The United Arab Emirates was the biggest importer of weapons in the region — and the third biggest in the world, after China and India, SIPRI said in a report on global arms transfers. In the 2004-2008 period, the UAE bought 80 F-16E combat aircraft from the U.S. and 50 Mirage 2000-9 fighters from France, it said.

"This is of course a big concern in a region where we see a lot of tension and full-out conflicts," SIPRI researcher Pieter Wezeman told The Associated Press.

He warned that growing arsenals in the Gulf could trigger a response from Iran and encourage it to pursue nuclear weapons.

"When Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates increase their arsenals there is a risk that Iran will feel even more threatened and marginalized than it already is," he said. "This should be very much taken into account when countries decide to supply these countries with

weapons."

During the four-year period, the UAE accounted for 34 percent of the arms imports in the Middle East. Israel accounted for 22 percent and Egypt 14 percent. Only 5 percent of the arms transfers to the region went to Iran, the report said.

"Iran has not been able to, or not been willing, to procure the same volumes of weapons as its neighbors," Wezeman said. "One has to wonder if its capability is not very limited, in fact."

The United States remained the world's biggest exporter of arms in 2004-2008, with a 31 percent share of the global market, down from a 35 percent share in the previous four years. More than one-third of the U.S. exports went to the Middle East, including some 207 combat aircraft and more than 5,000 guided bombs, SIPRI said. Russia's share of the export market fell to 25 percent from 26 percent, while Germany increased its arms export during the period to 10 percent of the global market from 7 percent previously.

China remained the biggest importer of weapons, accounting for 11 percent of all imports between 2004 and 2008, compared with 12 percent in the four years prior to that.

In total, the volume of global arms transfers between 2004 and 2008 increased by 21 percent compared with the previous four years.

SIPRI also said there are some signs of countries delaying or canceling purchases as a result of the global financial crisis, but added it is too early to confirm the trend.

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Britain would consider taking Gitmo detainees



British Justice Secretary Jack Straw, left, shakes hands with United States Attorney General Eric Holder, right, as they pose for photographers prior to their meeting in central London, Monday, April 27, 2009. Holder, on the first stop of a European tour, met privately on Monday with British officials to talk about intelligence and terrorism. He will also visit Prague and Berlin as he seeks allies' help to close Guantanamo Bay, combat terrorism, and catch cyber-criminals.

Associated Press

DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — British Justice Secretary Jack Straw said Monday his country would consider taking Guantanamo Bay detainees if the United States asks for such help to close the detention facility. Before Straw met with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, reporters asked the two officials about the possibility of Britain taking some inmates from Guantanamo.

"We will do our best to help and support the policy of the Obama administration to close Guantanamo Bay," Straw said. "If we're asked, of course we'll consider" accepting detainees, he said.

Holder said the U.S. had not yet made such a request. He said American officials are still determining how to handle the different groups of detainees before making requests of other countries.

A day earlier, Holder said the U.S. was close to making decisions on what to do with an initial group of the remaining 240 detainees held at Guantanamo. First, though, Obama administration officials must reach an agreement on how many of those should be released, how many should be put on trial, and what to do with those who fall into neither category.

The attorney general is visiting

Europe this week to discuss Guantanamo and to try to boost international cooperation on terrorism, organized crime and cyber crime.

He spent most of Monday in closed meetings with police and law enforcement officials, including those with MI5, Britain's intelligence agency. Holder will head to Prague on Tuesday for a gathering of European justice officials to formalize extradition agreements designed to speed investigations that reach across borders and oceans.

After that, Holder plans to travel to Berlin for meetings and a speech about Guantanamo.

The Obama administration is edging toward bringing some Guantanamo prisoners to the U.S., most likely to Virginia. They are Chinese Muslims known as Uighurs, and their supporters say they never should have been at Guantanamo.

Seventeen Uighurs are held at Guantanamo. In recent weeks, officials re-interviewed them in preparation for their eventual transfer.

The Uighurs were captured in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2001. Uighurs are from Xinjiang, an isolated region that borders Afghanistan, Pakistan and six Central Asian nations. They say they have been repressed by the Chinese

government. China has said that insurgents are leading an Islamic separatist movement. Any country that takes them is likely to anger China.

Republicans in Congress say Guantanamo should remain in operation and are mobilizing to fight the release of any detainees into the United

States.

Some European leaders argue that if the detainees are to be released anywhere, it should be in the United States.

There are about 240 inmates at Guantanamo. As many as 60, if freed, cannot go back to their homelands because they could face abuse,

imprisonment or death. They are from Azerbaijan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Chad, China, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Several European nations, including Portugal and Lithuania, have said they will consider taking such detainees. Some nations, such as Germany, are divided on the issue.

Quake jars already-nervous Mexico City residents



People are evacuated from their buildings wearing surgical masks after an earthquake in Mexico City, Monday, April 27, 2009. Mexico's government is ordering closed schools nationwide as the suspected death toll from swine flu climbed to 149.

Associated Press

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A strong earthquake struck central Mexico on Monday, swaying tall buildings in the capital and sending office workers into the streets.

The quake rattled nerves in a city already tense from a swine flu outbreak suspected of killing as many as 149 people nationwide. "I'm scared," said Sarai Luna Pajas, a 22-year-old social services worker standing outside her office building moments after it hit. "We Mexicans are not used to living with so much fear, but all that is happening — the economic crisis, the illnesses and now this — it feels like the Apocalypse."

Co-worker Harold Gutierrez, 21, said the country was taking comfort from its religious faith, but he too was gripped by the sensation that the world might be coming to an end.

"If it is, it is God's plan," Gutierrez said, speaking over a green mask he wore to ward off swine flu.

The Interior Ministry said there were no reports of damages anywhere in the country. The quake had a magnitude of 5.6 and was centered near Chilpancingo, about 130 miles southwest of Mexico City or 50 miles from the resort of Acapulco, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

USGS earthquake analyst Don Blakeman said the quake was felt strongly in Mexico City because the epicenter was relatively shallow and the ground under the capital — which is built on a former lake bed — tends to intensify shock waves.

"Distant quakes are often felt" strongly in the city, he said.

The USGS revised the quake's magnitude down from its preliminary estimate of 6.0, and said its depth was 30 miles.

Tourists also streamed out of hotels in Acapulco and congregated on sidewalks and medians for several minutes. Local Civil Protection officer Silvia Rodriguez said there were no injuries.

WHO raises pandemic alert; Mexico deaths climb

PETER ORSI

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP)

— Ominous developments Monday in the swine flu epidemic — a jump to 149 deaths and more signs that the virus can jump repeatedly from human to human — prompted the World Health Organization to raise its pandemic alert level, and governments around the world were taking tougher measures.

The virus has already spread to at least a half-dozen countries and half of Mexico. Trying to eliminate crowds, the Mexican government canceled school nationwide and considered closing the capital's subway system. Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova said 20 deaths have been confirmed to be from swine flu and test results were pending on the others.

“We are the most critical moment of the epidemic. The number of cases will keep rising so we have to reinforce preventive measures,” Cordova said at a news conference that was briefly shaken by an earthquake centered in southern Mexico.

WHO said the new phase 4 alert means sustained human-to-human transmission is causing outbreaks in at least one country, signaling a significant increase in the risk of a global epidemic, according to Mexico health department spokesman Carlos Olmos. Phase 4 doesn't mean a pandemic is inevitable, but many experts think it may be impossible to contain a flu virus already spreading in several countries.

Cordova said 1,995 people have been hospitalized with serious cases of pneumonia since mid-April, of whom 1,070 have been released. The government does not yet know how many were swine flu.

Cordova also suggested an earlier timeline for documented swine flu cases inside Mexico. The first death confirmed by the government involved a woman who succumbed from swine flu on April 13 in southern Oaxaca state. But Cordova said tests now show that a 4-year-old boy contracted



Newspaper vendor Irene Flores wears a surgical mask as she sells newspapers at the US-Mexico border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, Monday, April 27, 2009. President Barack Obama declared Monday that spreading swine flu infections were a concern but “not a cause for alarm,” while customs agents began checking people coming into the United States by land and air. Headline reads in Spanish “The virus spreads, 103 deaths.”

Associated Press

the disease at least two weeks earlier in neighboring Veracruz state, where a community has been protesting pollution from a large pig farm.

The farm is run by Granjas Carroll de Mexico, a joint venture 50 percent owned by Virginia-based Smithfield Foods, Inc. Spokeswoman Keira Ullrich said the company has found no clinical signs or symptoms of the presence of swine influenza in its swine herd or its employees working at its joint ventures anywhere in Mexico.

But local residents are convinced they were sickened by air and water contamination from pig waste.

There was a widespread outbreak of a particularly powerful respiratory disease in the area early April, and some people reported being sick as early as February. Local health workers intervened in early April, sealing off the town of La Gloria and spraying to kill off flies they said were swarming through their homes.

Cordova said the community was suffering from ordinary influenza — not swine flu. But only one sample was preserved — that of the boy. It was

only after U.S. and Canadian epidemiologists discovered the true nature of the virus that Mexico submitted the sample for international testing, and discovered what he suffered from.

The boy has since recovered and Cordova said there have been no new cases detected in the town, but epidemiologists want to take a closer look at pigs in Mexico as a potential source of the outbreak.

Juan Lubroth, an animal health expert at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, said a team of veterinarians was flying to Mexico. They will examine what surveillance systems are in place to detect swine flu, and review historical data on previous viruses identified in the country. Farmers will be interviewed.

Lubroth said there have been no reports of sick or dying swine in Mexico, but warned that fears surrounding the outbreak could have a devastating effect on the pork industry.

“Although the virus is reported to have a swine origin, it may have been several years ago, and it's only now that it has shown up in humans as a clinical

problem that is spreading,” he said.

The Mexican government has yet to say where and how the epidemic began or give details on the victims.

Cordova said the health department lacked the staff to visit the homes of all those suspected to have died from the disease. But he assured that the country had enough medicine to treat the ill.

Meanwhile, Mexico suspended all schools nationwide until May 6, extending an order already in place in Mexico City and five of the country's 32 states, and urged people to stay home if they feel sick.

Labor Secretary Javier Lozano Alarcon said employers should isolate anyone showing up for work with fever, cough, sore throat or other symptoms. And the Mexico City government was considering shutting down all public transportation if the death toll keeps rising. Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said surgical masks were being distributed at subway and bus stops across the city.

The disease has hit hardest in the capital, but life was disrupted from Tijuana to Acapulco, a lucrative Pacific resort town

where night clubs and bars were ordered closed until further notice. Acapulco Mayor Manuel Anorve Banos said he was worried about tourists from Mexico City spreading the disease.

Some city dwellers headed to the beach, taking advantage of the closed schools. But those who live day-to-day worried about making ends meet if the city completely shuts down.

“We're going to have to stop working,” said Raul Alvarez Torres, who relies on the subway to get from his gritty suburb to his shoe shining stand in an upscale Mexico city neighborhood each day. “If people have no transport, getting around is impossible.”

Even as Mexican officials urged those with flu symptoms to seek medical help, some complained of being turned away.

In Toluca, a city west of the capital, one family said health authorities refused to treat a relative Sunday who had full-blown flu symptoms and could barely stand. The man, 31-year-old truck driver Elias Camacho, was even ordered out of a government ambulance, his father-in-law told The Associated Press.

Paramedics complained that Camacho — who had a fever, was coughing and had body aches — was contagious, Jorge Martinez Cruz said.

Family members took him by taxi to a public hospital, but a doctor there denied Camacho was sick and told the trio to leave, Martinez said.

“The government told us that if we have these symptoms, we should go to these places, but look how they treat us,” Martinez said. Camacho was finally admitted to the hospital — and placed in an area marked “restricted” — after a doctor at a private clinic notified state health authorities, Martinez said.

Jose Isaac Cepeda, who has had fever, diarrhea and joint pains since Friday, said he was turned away from two hospitals — the first because he isn't registered in the public health system, and the second “because they say they're too busy.”

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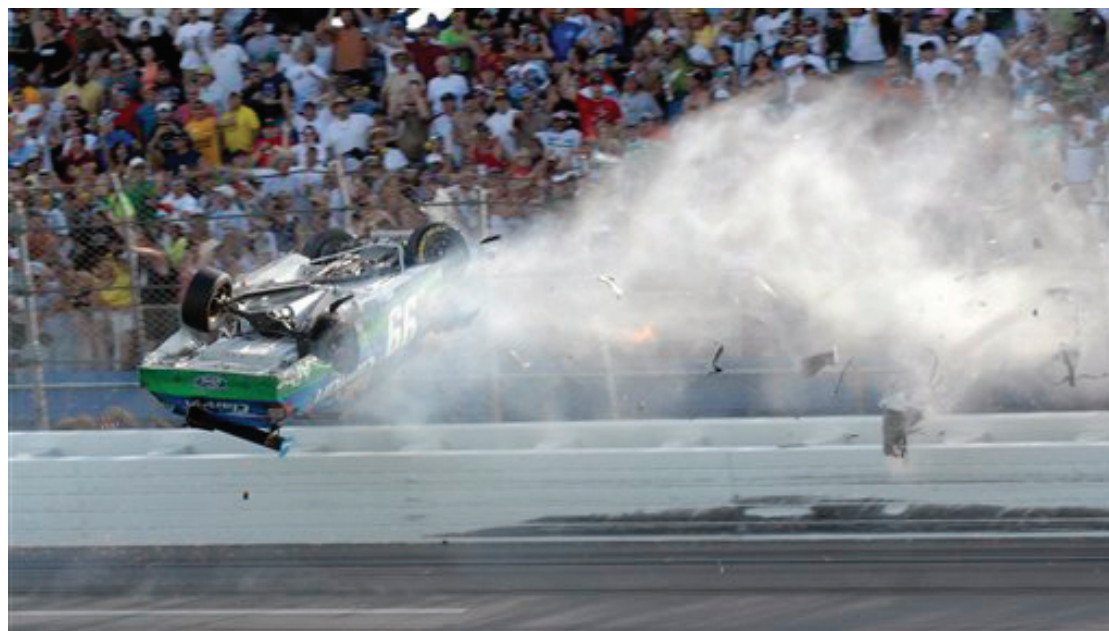
Big wreck mars Keselowski's victory at Talladega

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Carl Edwards' battered car soared 15-feet off the ground, scraping along the safety fence, then bouncing back onto the track in flames. Wreckage from the last-lap accident spewed into the stands, sending two fans to the hospital in the aftermath of yet another "Big One" at Talladega Superspeedway.

A scary ending to another crash-marred restrictor plate race, which won't be remembered for unheralded Brad Keselowski's last-lap pass for his first Sprint Cup Series victory. Instead, the lasting images will be Edwards airborne, his upside-down car



Carl Edwards flips into the catch fence on the final lap of the Aaron's 499 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala., on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Associated Press

coming eerily close to flying into the grandstands.

The frontstretch safety fence bowed upon impact, but held, and seven fans were injured from the flying debris. An eighth seated in that section of the grandstands was treated for an undisclosed medical condition.

Edwards, who climbed from the fiery wreckage and crossed the finish line on foot, was thankful it wasn't worse.

"I don't know if I could live with myself if I ended up in the grandstands," Edwards said.

Dr. Bobby Lewis, Talladega's onsite physician, said two people in the crowd were airlifted from the track to avoid the heavy traffic. One woman had a possible broken jaw, and none of the injuries were considered life-threatening.

Edwards said he hoped the near-miss caught the attention of NASCAR, which sets the rules used in Sunday's race.

"We'll race like this until we kill somebody," Edwards said, "then (NASCAR) will change it." The dangerous but dramatic restrictor-plate racing came under fire after Edwards' attempt to block Keselowski's winning pass triggered the last of several frightening accidents at one of the sport's most exciting tracks.

Keselowski pushed Edwards past Ryan Newman and Dale Earnhardt Jr. into the lead on the final lap, and the 25-year-old Earnhardt protege peeked around Edwards as they closed on the finish line. Edwards ducked low to block the pass, but Keselowski was too close and couldn't avoid contact that sent Edwards into a spin up the track and into Newman's path. Edwards' car flew over the top of Newman's hood, then shot into the frontstretch fence.

NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter said the sanctioning body will analyze the accident, as well as the safety fence, to determine if anything can be improved.

Continued on page 12

Jets contacted Burress' agent before draft

DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey (AP) — The New York Jets, in the market for a wide receiver, called Plaxico Burress' agent before the NFL draft to look into the former Giants star's legal troubles.

Burress was released by the Giants on April 3, just over four months after the Super Bowl hero accidentally shot himself in the thigh with an unlicensed gun in a New York City nightclub.

Burress, 31, faces more than three years in prison if convicted on a felony weapons charge. He's due back in court on June 15.

Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said that "consistent with our normal approach of performing our due diligence, we contacted Drew Rosenhaus several days ago, prior to the draft, to inquire about Plaxico's pending legal situation."

Tannenbaum added that the Jets haven't spoken with Rosenhaus about Burress since.

Rosenhaus didn't immediately respond to a voice mail and e-mail left for him by The Associated Press seeking comment.

ESPN first reported Sunday that the Jets had talks about the possibility of

signing Burress.

One of New York's biggest holes entering the draft was at wide receiver, where Jericho Cotchery is the only proven veteran after the Jets allowed Laveranues Coles to become a free agent. They didn't address the position over the weekend, instead trading up Saturday to take quarterback Mark Sanchez with the fifth overall pick and again moving up to take running back Shonn Greene with the first selection of the third round Sunday. They took offensive lineman Matt Slauson in the sixth round with their only other pick.

Burress would give the Jets an experienced player with much needed height — he's 6-foot-5 — at the position, but he certainly would come with lots of baggage. Burress was suspended by the Giants for the final four weeks of last season for conduct detrimental to the team and fined after the shooting. He also faces possible NFL sanctions for violating its personal conduct policy.

He has 505 career receptions for 7,845 yards and 55 touchdowns in nine seasons with the Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers.



In this Nov. 16, 2008 file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress (17) watches from the sidelines against the Baltimore Ravens during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J. The New York Giants released Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress on Friday, April 3, 2009, a little more than four months after the talented but troubled wide receiver accidentally shot himself in the thigh in a New York City nightclub.

Associated Press

Celtics hope crucial Game 5 goes their way again

HOWARD ULMAN

AP Sports Writer

WALTHAM, Massachusetts (AP) — The Boston Celtics are back home where they won three Game 5s on their way to the NBA championship last season.

They want to do it again Tuesday night or risk being a stunning first-round playoff casualty two days later in the noisy building of the young Chicago Bulls.

“I don’t look back on last year,” Ray Allen said Monday. “I just know what the task is at hand right now and that’s to beat the team that I feel we’ve given confidence to early in games that we’ve lost.”

The Bulls’ two victories

required extra effort. They won the opener 105-103 in one overtime and Game 4 in two overtimes on Sunday, 121-118. Ben Gordon’s 3-point shot with 4.5 seconds left sent that game into a second overtime, a gutty performance after he had strained his left hamstring in the second quarter.

An MRI Monday confirmed the diagnosis and Gordon was listed as day-to-day, though he said Sunday he thought he’d play.

Poor defense and missed shots by the Celtics earlier in those losses set the stage for the dramatic finishes.

The Celtics remain “as confident as always,” Allen said, but “we have a tendency ... to talk about what happened



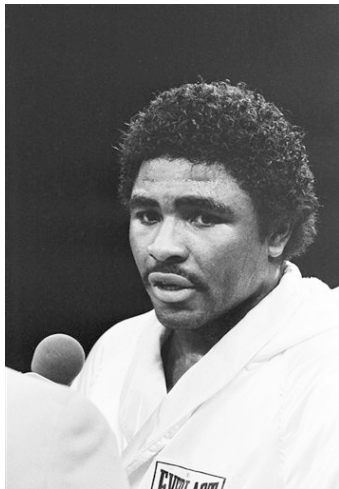
Boston Celtics players, from left, Kendrick Perkins, Glen Davis, Rajon Rondo, Paul Pierce and Eddie House wait by the scorers’ table for play to resume during the fourth quarter of Game 4 in a first-round NBA playoff basketball series against the Chicago Bulls in Chicago, Sunday, April 26, 2009. Chicago won 121-118 in double overtime.

Associated Press

Former Louisville boxing champion Greg Page dies

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP) — Greg Page, a former heavyweight boxing champion who suffered a severe brain injury in a 2001 fight, has died at his Louisville home. He was 50.

His wife, Patricia Page, said she found the one-time World Boxing Association champion in his bed Monday morning. Patricia Page said he died of complications related to injuries he suffered in the fight.



Page told The Associated Press her husband “is in a better place now.” The March 9, 2001, fight left Page in a coma for nearly a week. He then had a stroke during post-fight surgery. He was paralyzed on his left side and received intensive physical therapy. Page won a \$1.2 million settlement in 2007 with Kentucky boxing officials over the lack of medical personnel at the fight. Boxing officials also agreed to establish a medical review panel for the Kentucky Boxing and Wrestling Authority to check the health conditions of people involved in the sport who may be at risk for injury.

Page started fighting while growing up in Louisville and was sparring with Muhammad Ali by the time he was 15. He became the National Golden Gloves heavyweight champion in 1978 at age 20.

He turned to professional boxing and lost his first shot at the WBA heavyweight championship in 1984 to Tim Witherspoon. In December of that year, Page knocked out Gerrie Coetzee in the eighth round of their bout in South Africa to claim the title, but lost on points to Tony Tubbs five months later.

Page continued boxing through 1993, then took two years off after being knocked out by Bruce Seldon. He started again in 1996.

Page was 42 and had a 58-16-1 career record going into the \$1,500 fight against Dale Crowe at Peels Palace in Erlanger, Kentucky, near Cincinnati. Crowe was 24 and an up-and-coming boxer. Page went down after 10 rounds and didn’t get up.

Patricia Page said Monday that funeral arrangements were pending.

at the end of the game, but the tape shows you what happens consistently throughout the game and why you ultimately end up in the predicament that you end up in.”

Last year Boston was tied 2-2 in its series with Atlanta, Cleveland and Detroit, going on to beat the Hawks and Cavaliers in seven games and the Pistons in six. They won the NBA title in six games over the Los Angeles Lakers. But that team had Kevin Garnett, Leon Powe, James Posey and P.J. Brown as part of a defensively intimidating frontcourt. In these playoffs Garnett and Powe are sidelined with knee injuries, Posey is with the New Orleans Hornets and Brown is retired.

“We’re short-handed and we’re trying to work our way through that,” Boston coach Doc Rivers said.

The problem was compounded Sunday when starting center Kendrick Perkins and reserve forward Brian Scalabrine fouled out.

Rivers said he won’t allow his players to complain about fouls. Then he did that himself while dropping a hint for Tuesday night’s officials.

“I’ve got to say this about Perk. Clearly, every game he’s being targeted for these moving screens,” Rivers said. “He gets them called every game and, watching that tape (Sunday) night, there were two (fouls) that he did move in the direction but there was zero contact.

“Brad Miller, on the other hand, is flying around. He’s laying guys out on screens and didn’t get one of those called,” Rivers said of Chicago’s backup center. “That bothers you.” After a grueling fourth game — seven of the 10 starters played at least 45 minutes — neither team practiced Monday.

But with three very close games and only one blowout — a 107-86 thrashing by the Celtics in Game 3 — both teams already know plenty about each other.

“Ray Allen gets (his shot) up so quick, it’s tough,” said Kirk Hinrich, who came off the bench to play 43 minutes Sunday. “(Rajon) Rondo is constantly getting in the paint, and Paul Pierce is one of the best scorers in the league.

“It’s tough, but they definitely do a good job of screening.

In the playoffs, you get away with a little more with the screens. You just have to be tough enough to get through it and still be able to challenge shots.”

Rivers is more concerned about the Celtics’ defense. He felt they switched off the men they were guarding too often Sunday — “we can’t make up our own defenses on the fly,” Rivers said. And they didn’t foul when it would have helped, like when Gordon hit his tying 3-pointer over Pierce.

“I think the play threw them off,” Gordon said. “They really didn’t know what to do. Paul got out to me pretty well because I couldn’t catch and shoot like I wanted to, but I managed to get a good shot off.”

Now the Celtics will be playing before friendly fans. They feel they’re in good enough shape to recover from Sunday’s tiring effort. They know they’re just two overtime losses from having swept the best-of-seven series and resting for the second round.

And now that they’re home, they hope more calls will go in their favor.

Injury knocks Quality Road out of Kentucky Derby

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The trainer in Jimmy Jerkens thought maybe, just maybe, Quality Road could compete in the Kentucky Derby even with a quarter crack injury that has slowed down his training the last two weeks.

The horseman in Jerkens, however, knew otherwise.

Jerkens scratched the Florida Derby winner Monday after the 3-year-old colt missed a workout at Belmont Park, knocking one of the favorites out of Saturday's Run for the Roses and further muddying an already cloudy Derby picture.

"We couldn't train him so we decided we couldn't run him," Jerkens said. "He just isn't sound enough."

While Jerkens doesn't doubt the quarter crack could be manageable by Saturday afternoon, he didn't want to force the issue and thought a two-week layoff from serious work would be too much to ask. Quality Road's last breeze was April 17 before the injury was discovered.

"You're just kidding yourself if you think you can go out there and run in the biggest race in the world and haven't trained," Jerkens said. "It's a shame because he's so talented."

Quality Road developed a quarter crack on his right front foot last week, and Jerkens kept him under wraps while he recuperated. The horse was patched up over the weekend and galloped Sunday on Belmont's training track.

While Quality Road appeared to be fine, Jerkens became concerned after finding a spot of blood on the newly patched crack.

On Monday morning, Jerkens noticed the colt's foot was sore and that he was favoring it.

It was all Jerkens had to see. The son of Hall of Fame trainer Allen Jerkens was looking to send out his first Derby starter but instead will likely point Quality Road to the Preakness or the Belmont.

"It's devastating," Jerkens said. "He's really sensitive on the quarter. I don't know if you'd ever get a horse into the Derby (again) with his credentials. We'll re-patch it but we can't do it until all the soreness is out of it."

Quality Road has won 3-of-4 starts, including the Fountain



In this March 28, 2009 file photo released by Gulfstream Park, Quality Road, with jockey John R. Velazquez up, heads toward the finish line to win the Florida Derby horse race at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla. Kentucky Derby contender Quality Road has developed another quarter crack and his status for the Run for the Roses next Saturday is in question.

Associated Press

of Youth Stakes and the Florida Derby, where he beat another top Derby contender in Dunkirk.

Dunkirk is all set to go for the Derby, one of three horses Eclipse Award-winning trainer Todd Pletcher suddenly finds himself saddling Saturday.

Quality Road's scratch bumped Join in the Dance — the third-place finisher in the Blue Grass Stakes on April 11 — into the 20-horse Derby field and gives Pletcher another shot at reaching the infield winner's circle at Churchill Downs.

Pletcher is 0-for-21 in the first jewel of the Triple Crown and Dunkirk figured to be his only shot this year.

Now he's got three horses in the Derby after Advice stunned Square Eddie in the Lexington on April 17.

Join in the Dance looked ready for the biggest race of the year on Monday, putting together a solid five furlong workout in 1:00.20 under Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero Jr.

"He's an enthusiastic work horse, so it was good to see him settle and work well today," Pletcher said. "He should be ready now."

Even if Join in the Dance will be a bit of a long shot.

The surer bets — if there are any to be made in one of the most wide-open fields in recent memory — will likely be on Pioneerof the Nile and I Want Revenge.

Both of those horses, however,

still have plenty of questions. Pioneerof the Nile has never run on dirt, and I Want Revenge looked outclassed in California earlier this year before finding his footing in New York while winning the Gotham Stakes and the Wood Memorial.

The horse is co-owned by IEAH Stables, owners of last year's Derby and Preakness winner Big Brown.

Michael Iavarone, who purchased a share of I Want Revenge after he won the Gotham last month, hardly seems troubled about the prospect of saddling a Derby favorite for the second straight year.

While Iavarone and trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. opted to put Big Brown on the far outside post to give him a clean trip, Iavarone doesn't think his newest star is going to need it.

"He can win on any surface from anywhere," Iavarone said.

Quality Road's foot problems aren't lost on Iavarone. A quarter crack discovered before last year's Belmont Stakes affected Big Brown's training and may have led to his mystifying last-place finish.

"They can be very painful, and certainly it altered the way we tried to get him ready," Iavarone said. "Those things are part of the game but you want to make sure you do right by your horse."

Talladega

Continued from front page

"If there were something that we felt we could do today to make it safer, it would be done," Hunter said. "This is a fast race track. It's wide. I saw guys racing five-abreast today, which I have never seen. We know the cars are safer than they've ever been."

Restrictor plates are used at Daytona and Talladega to combat the high speeds at NASCAR's two fastest tracks. The plates typically keep the field bunched tightly together, and one wrong move by a driver can cause a massive accident.

There were three bad ones Sunday: a 13-car accident on Lap 7, a 10-car accident with nine laps to go, and Edwards' flight to the finish. A day earlier, Matt Kenseth was uninjured in a fiery roll during the Nationwide Series race.



"Talladega is short for 'We're going to crash, we just don't know when,'" said Newman, the third-place finisher. "We saw (an airborne car) two times this weekend, so maybe we need to look at things that keep the car down on the ground."

Earnhardt Jr., a five-time Talladega winner and seven-time winner of restrictor-plate races, finished second but echoed concerns about the racing style. Drivers dread it because so much is out of their control, but Earnhardt said it's loved by

fans because of the danger. "For years, we've had wrecks like this every time we've come to Talladega. Ever since the plate got here. And for years it was celebrated," he said. "The media celebrated it, the networks celebrated it, calling it 'The Big One,' just trying to attract attention."

"So there's a responsibility with the media and the networks and the sanctioning body itself to come to their senses a little bit."

None of the drivers involved in any of the accidents was injured.



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Correa radicalizará socialismo Ecuador tras victoria

QUITO (Reuters) - Ni la crisis económica global, ni los grupos de poder, ni la “izquierda infantil” frenarán la revolución socialista en Ecuador, prometió el lunes el presidente Rafael Correa horas después de obtener una histórica reelección en el inestable país andino.

Correa obtuvo más de la mitad de los votos en los comicios del domingo, adjudicándose por primera vez en 30 años de democracia ecuatoriana una victoria sin necesidad de segunda vuelta, según los datos oficiales con más del 70 por ciento de las actas escrutadas. Con su quinto triunfo electoral consecutivo, el mandatario izquierdista se consolida en el poder pese a la severa crisis económica que sacude al pequeño país petrolero, que ha asegurado enfrentará profundizando sus políticas socialistas.

“El triunfo por supuesto que es un espaldarazo al proyecto político del socialismo del siglo XXI a nivel nacional y regional”, dijo en una conferencia de prensa el popular economista de 46 años formado en Estados Unidos y Europa.



Un vendedor ofrece diarios con noticias sobre la reelección del ecuatoriano Rafael Correa, en Quito, 27 abr 2009. El presidente Rafael Correa logró una histórica reelección en el inestable Ecuador, con un contundente apoyo en una primera vuelta que le deja desde lunes por delante el reto de cumplir con sus promesas socialistas en medio de una severa crisis económica mundial que ha salpicado al pequeño país andino. REUTERS/Guillermo Granja

mostró optimista con respecto al devenir económico pese a la caída de los precios del petróleo, los menores ingresos por remesas y las golpeadas exportaciones agropecuarias, aunque admitió que todavía existen riesgos impredecibles por la turbulencia financiera global. “La expectativas son muy buenas para el país, ya lo más duro pasó. Pero por supuesto existe una gran incertidumbre y cualquier cosa puede pasar”, dijo Correa, quien ha prometido seguir con su línea dura hacia los inversores extranjeros. Sin embargo, el gobernante enfrenta este nuevo mandato de cuatro años con menos recursos para sus multimillonarios programas sociales, un creciente desempleo y una alta inflación que podrían erosionar su alto respaldo en un país donde tres presidentes fueron derrocados desde 1997.

Perú otorga asilo a líder opositor venezolano

LIMA (Reuters) - Perú informó el lunes que otorgó por razones humanitarias asilo al líder opositor venezolano Manuel Rosales, quien afirma ser un perseguido político del Gobierno de Hugo Chávez y enfrenta una orden de captura por cargos de corrupción.

El canciller peruano, José Antonio García Belaunde, al hacer el anuncio, dijo además que la decisión del Gobierno del Perú no debería alterar las relaciones bilaterales de “dos países hermanos”.

Rosales, alcalde de la importante ciudad occidental de Maracaibo y contendor de Chávez en las elecciones presidenciales del 2006, llegó a Lima hace unas semanas junto a tres de sus hijos y el martes 21 de abril solicitó asilo a Perú alegando persecución política en su país.

“Después de examinar el expediente y entrevistarse con el señor Rosales hemos decidido que había un caso por otorgar asilo por razones humanitarias”, dijo a periodistas García Belaunde, luego de acudir a una sesión en la comisión de Relaciones Exteriores del Congreso. Rosales no es el único político venezolano que ha logrado refugio en Perú. Según la cancillería, otros tres dirigentes han recibido asilo en los últimos años, entre ellos Carlos Ortega, uno de los promotores de una huelga organizada para buscar la renuncia de Chávez a fines del 2002.

Sismo de magnitud 5.6 sacude México

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 5.6 sacudió el lunes a una amplia zona del centro y costa Pacífico de México, causando daños leves y preocupación en una población ya alarmada por la mortal epidemia de influenza porcina que se extiende por el país.

Las autoridades informaron que una mujer de 67 años de edad murió debido a un infarto cardiaco en la localidad de Plan de Ayutla, en el estado occidental de Guerrero, donde el temblor se percibió con más fuerza.

El movimiento tuvo su epicentro a 30

kilómetros al sureste de la ciudad de Chilpancingo, en Guerrero, y ocurrió a las 11.46 hora local (1646 GMT), según datos del Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos (USGS por su sigla en inglés), que previamente había reportado una magnitud 6.0.

El temblor causó nerviosismo entre los ya preocupados mexicanos justo en momentos en que el Gobierno informaba un aumento en el número de víctimas y contagiados por una mortal epidemia de influenza porcina.

México:

149 muertes sospechosas por gripe porcina

MEXICO (AP) - La cifra de muertes posiblemente vinculadas al virus de influenza porcina se elevó el lunes a 149 en México, lo cual llevó a la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) a subir su nivel de alerta frente al aumento sustancial de riesgo de una pandemia.

El secretario de Salud, José Angel Córdova, informó en rueda de prensa que sólo en 20 casos de fallecimientos está confirmado que se trata de influenza porcina, pero dijo que el gobierno acordó reforzar las medidas preventivas que incluyen la suspensión total de clases en los 32 estados del país.

En Estados Unidos un funcionario federal informó que han registrado 40 casos confirmados de gripe porcina en el país.

Córdova señaló que se tiene contemplado paralizar por completo las actividades en la ciudad de México en caso de que la situación se agrave.

La OMS notificó en Ginebra que incrementó de 3 a 4 su nivel de alerta epidemiológico, lo cual significa que ha aumentado sustancialmente el riesgo de pandemia. Aseguró que no contempla el cierre de fronteras.

Chez Matilde

Restaurant & Downtown Grand Old House



Chez Matilde opens the Dutch Asparagus season

Matilde's restaurant has for many years opened the annual Asparagus season, or to be exact, the famous "Dutch Asparagus" season, with a celebration of perfectly paired food and wine.

In Holland they refer to the elongated, elegant vegetable as "white gold," and it is considered a true delicacy, so visit Matilde's restaurant in the heart of Oranjestad and see for yourself what the fuss is all about.

This year's harvest, explains the Aruba Trading Company's wine expert Jorge Curiel, was very challenging and thus very exciting. The weather conditions were not always perfectly favorable for growers. Growers were expected to start harvesting at the end of April, yet surprisingly some lucky growers were able to begin early, in the second week of April. In spite of lower temperature in Europe mid-March, consumers can still expect an excellent crop with good quality, super flavorful Asparagus stalks going to market.

Matilde's Executive Chef Linda Pool was extremely excited to receive the first case of the 2009 crop on Friday, April 24th. Her special asparagus menu prepared in her head, way in advance, immediately translated itself into reality, accompanied with the fine wines of the Aruba Trading Company each course appropriately escorted and paired.

The menu, replete with traditional Dutch Asparagus recipes also received an injection of Linda's creativity and ingenuity inspired by different culinary traditions from around the world. Curiel also picked the wines from around the globe, Australian, French and Italian, to enhance the experience.

Stop by for an unforgettable evening and enjoy this year's "Limburgs Witte Goud"



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